


Maricopa County Policies and Procedures	Subject: Policy for General Fund Vehicle Replacement	Number: B4002 Issue Date: 12/97
Approved: 	Initiating Department: Office of Management and Budget	

A. Introduction

This Policy is designed to provide departments with the guidelines for replacement of existing vehicles used by general fund departments that were initially purchased with general fund resources.

B. Background

Equipment replacement must be planned and approval for replacement received through the budget process. The Equipment Services Department has the responsibility to plan for replacement needs in conjunction with the County departments. During development of each fiscal year budget, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) reviews requests received from departments for replacement of existing vehicles. In determining the amount of funding required, only the cost to replace existing vehicles with their equivalents is considered. Upgrades and additional new vehicles may not be charged to the vehicle replacement budget.

The Sheriff's Office equipment replacement schedule will be discussed and approved during the annual budget process. Due to the unique nature of the functions of the Sheriff's Office, the equivalent replacements and upgrades may be changed to meet departmental needs, if the costs remain within budget targets. However these changes will be discussed with OMB prior to proceeding to ensure costs are appropriate.

C. Guidelines

1. The department, working with Equipment Services, prepares a needs assessment to determine which vehicles require replacement for upcoming fiscal years.
2. Vehicle replacement will be funded only for the current equivalent equipment class, make, model and equipment extras.
3. Upgrades are not funded under the vehicle replacement budget. If a department determines upgrades are necessary, the department has two options: (a) pay for the upgrades from the department's current operating budget; or (b) request upgrades and additions during the development of the departmental budget.
4. If the full cost of replacement is actually lower than originally estimated, the savings will revert to the general fund reserve for accidents and overruns. Savings do not revert to the department with the exception of the Sheriff's Office Replacement Fund.
5. Possible cost overruns will not be charged to the department. These will be absorbed by the vehicle replacement budget.
6. OMB must approve all charges to the vehicle replacement budget.

D. Exceptions

If, during the replacement process, the department requires changes to the original vehicle replacement request, the department must request reconsideration of their initial vehicle replacement plan. The criteria OMB will consider during the review of the department's revised plan includes funding and the impact on current and future costs for maintenance, operation and replacement. To assist OMB in performing a full analysis of the revised replacement plan, departments are requested to provide:

1. A justification statement which supports changes to be in the best interest of Maricopa County citizens, enhances services provided to the citizens and benefits the County overall. This statement can also include information on changes in service levels which require the use of a different vehicle class, the impact on current and future costs for maintenance, operation and replacement as well as information on funding.

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2. A spreadsheet which reflects the current vehicle replacement schedule with costs and the proposed vehicle schedule with costs. The spreadsheet needs to reflect the increase or decrease of cost for each vehicle and an explanation for the cost change.
3. A complete justification for any equipment additions to the replacement vehicles and how these equipment additions enhance the service levels being provided to Maricopa County citizens.
4. OMB will review the request and provide the department and Equipment Services with final approval or disapproval of the proposed change to the department's equipment vehicle replacement plan within 3 working days of receipt.